

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

28 April 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

SUBJECT: ONE/EE Staff Notes

From time to time the EE Staff intends to write notes and comments on Soviet and East European affairs and circulate them to the Board. These will be quite informal and wide-ranging and mainly for information. These notes will be uncoordinated, often on peripheral subjects, and not intended for further dissemination or formal discussion. Distribution will be to Board members, Chief of the Estimates Staff, and Recommended Reading Folder only. A first such note is attached.

H. STOERTZ, JR.

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

28 April 1964

ONE/EE STAFF NOTE

There is a strange report from Radio Liberty which says, in effect, that the slaughter of livestock in the USSR during the past fall and winter reached absolutely horrendous proportions (up to half of all the herds). The source of this report is said to be Khrushchev's main adviser on livestock problems (and preliminary checking by OCI suggests that this could indeed be the case).

Such a report, even if found to be reliable, raises about as many questions as it answers (e.g. how much of the breeding stock was slaughtered?).

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Small wonder that he did so if 40 percent of the pigs have been slaughtered (previously reported) and 50 percent of the cattle -- not to mention a great variety of other problems.

The Soviet economy may not, by our standards, be in a state of real crisis (i.e. it will not collapse tomorrow or by 1970 or what have you). But it could very well be in a state of crisis in the minds of the Soviet leaders. And this, if true, is very much worthwhile seeking to bring out in the forthcoming economic estimate.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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